increase in recovery about that level. This is significantly higher than the SMP for the previous sugar season which was Rs. 81.18 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 9 percent subject to a premium of 0.90 for every 0.1 percent increase in the recovery above that level for the sugar season 2008-09. Sugar production is decreased in (2008-09) compared to previous years mainly because of adverse climatic conditions, decrease in sugarcane area, reduction in productivity, delay and intermittent cane price payment, higher diversion of cane towards the Gur, Jaggary and Khandsari units and better return from the competitive crops resulted decrease in sugar production and consequently increase in sugar price. The above mentioned measures are meant for increasing production of sugarcane and sugar in the coming years.

Kuttanad Package proposal of Government of Kerala

135. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved the Kuttanad Package proposed by Government of Kerala as a whole;

(b) if so, to what extent the Central assistance can be received by the State under the package;

(c) what are the conditions for acceptance of project proposals made by Government of Kerala;

(d) the position with regard to the project proposals made by the State;

(e) what are the reasons for rejection of the proposals, if any; and

(f) whether the guidelines under the Central Schemes are in conformity with the recommendations of M.S. Swaminathan foundation report on Kuttanad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) For development of Kuttanad Wetland Eco-system as a part of Rehabilitation Package for the farmers in suicide-prone districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra, the Government has granted 'in-principle' approval for providing financial support involving financial outlay of Rs. 1,840.75 crore for implementing various programmes/ interventions suggested by M.S Swaminathan Research Foundation. The Government has also approved that the programmes/interventions involving financial outlay upto Rs.50 lakhs will be implemented by the State Government of Kerala from their own funds under their schemes.

(c) The approved programmes/interventions are to be implemented by the concerned Ministries/Departments within their existing schemes and funding pattern for which the Government of Kerala will, after identifying the activities to be undertaken, submit appropriate proposals after formulation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to the concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India in accordance with the approved guidelines/procedures for such schemes for release of necessary funds.

(d) and (e) The Government of Kerala has so far submitted 26 projects amounting to Rs.364.90 crores under Kuttanad package. The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India has sanctioned one project on "Measures for augmenting biodiversity in the backwaters (Vembanad Wetland)" and has already released an amount of Rs.15.75 lakhs to the State Government. Other projects require some modification/rectification and the State Government of Kerala has already been advised to effectively coordinate and interact with the concerned Ministries/Departments of Government of India for sorting out the issues coming in way of sanction of projects.

(f) M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation in its report has not made any observation or recommendations on the guidelines of Central Schemes. Therefore, this question does not arise.

Production under Rabi, Kharif crop during 2008-09

†136. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area that was under cultivation of mustard, groundnut, soyabean and palm oil in Rabi and Kharif during the year 2008-09 and quantum of production thereof;

(b) to what extent it was more or less in comparison to last three years;

(c) the reasons for the same;

(d) whether it is a fact that there has been a huge import of edible oils during the last three years;

(e) if so, item-wise details thereof; and

(f) whether it is also a fact that due to corruption in obtaining support price of oilseeds and non-payment of arrears to the farmers, this situation has arisen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The area and production of Rapeseed and Mustard, Groundnut, Soyabean and total Oilseeds for Rabi and Kharif for the years 2005-06 to 2008-09 are given in the following tables:

Area:

(Lakh Hectares)

Year	Rapeseed and Mustard	Groundnut		Soyabean	Total Oilseeds	
	Rabi	Kharif	Rabi	Kharif	Kharif	Rabi
2005-06	72.77	57.40	9.96	77.08	173.68	104.94
2006-07	67.90	47.80	8.35	83.29	167.70	97.43
2007-08	58.26	53.12	9.80	88.82	179.49	87.43
2008-09*	63.32	52.34	10.16	95.17	185.38	91.53

*3rd Advance Estimates

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.